

Appendix A:

Sample Questionnaire

The following is a shortened version of the survey administered annually by the Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn, New York. Questions address quality of life, personal safety, community resources, and justice system issues.

Red Hook Public Safety Corps—Operation Data COMMUNITY SURVEY

Opening Remarks: Hello, my name is _____. I'm with the Red Hook Public Safety Corps. We're conducting a survey to learn about the strengths and problems of your neighborhood. Participation in this survey is voluntary, and your responses will be kept confidential. This information is for research purposes only. The survey will take about 20 minutes.

1. First, I have a few basic questions. What is your relationship to this neighborhood?

- 1 Resident
- 2 Merchant
- 3 Worker
- 4 Other: _____

2. How many years have you lived or worked in this neighborhood?

(If less than 1, put 0) _____

3. In general, how do you feel about this neighborhood as a place to live or work?

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Somewhat unsatisfied
- 5 Very unsatisfied

4. Over the past year, how would you rate the quality of life in the neighborhood? Is the quality of life:

- 1 Very poor
- 2 Poor
- 3 Okay
- 4 Good
- 5 Very good

5. In the past year, do you think the quality of life in the neighborhood has improved, stayed the same, or declined?

- 1 Improved
- 2 Same
- 3 Declined

6. Let's talk about the problems that may exist here. After each issue that I state, tell me whether it is a:

- 1 - Very big problem 2 - Big problem
- 3 - Minor problem 4 - Not a problem

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Public drug sales |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Fighting in public |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Public drug use |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Public drinking |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Mugging |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Littering |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Prostitution |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Begging and panhandling |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Domestic violence |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Child neglect or abuse |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Residential burglary |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Vandalism |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Shoplifting |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Garbage on the streets |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Graffiti |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Rundown parks/green areas |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Poor street repair/poor street lighting |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Abandoned property |

7. When I say a location, tell me whether you feel very safe, safe, unsafe, or very unsafe during the day:

- 1 - Very safe 2 - Safe
- 3 - Unsafe 4 - Very unsafe

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | On the street |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | In your home |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | In your lobby |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | In the elevator |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | In the stairways |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | On the way to and from the subway |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | At the local subway |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | In the stores |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | In the parks |

8. For the same locations, tell me whether you feel very safe, safe, unsafe, or very unsafe at night:

- 1 - Very safe
- 2 - Safe
- 3 - Unsafe
- 4 - Very unsafe

- 1234On the street
- 1234In your home
- 1234In your lobby
- 1234In the elevator
- 1234In the stairways
- 1234On the way to and from the subway
- 1234At the local subway
- 1234In the stores
- 1234In the parks

9. In what other places do you feel unsafe? _____

10. A: I want to stress again that all of your responses will be kept confidential and will be used for research purposes only. Have you been a victim of any of the following crimes within the past 12 months?

Yes No

- 12Mugging/robbery
- 12Rape/sexual assault
- 12Domestic abuse
- 12Child abuse
- 12Burglary of home
- 12Burglary of car
- 12Theft of money or personal belongings
- 12Assault
- 12Shooting
- 12Stabbing
- 12Other: _____

B: CORPS MEMBER: If participant answers yes to any of these questions, ask, "Was the offender under 18 years old?"

Yes No

- 12Mugging/robbery
- 12Rape/sexual assault
- 12Domestic abuse
- 12Child abuse
- 12Burglary of home
- 12Burglary of car
- 12Theft of money or personal belongings
- 12Assault
- 12Shooting
- 12Stabbing
- 12Other: _____

11. What other problems is the neighborhood facing?_____

12. Are the following items strengths or weaknesses of the neighborhood?

Identify each as:

1 - Very strong

2 - Somewhat strong

3 - Not strong or weak

4 - Somewhat weak

5 - Very weak

1 2 3 4 5 Tenant association or block association

1 2 3 4 5 Churches

1 2 3 4 5 Soup kitchens

1 2 3 4 5 Health clinics/medical centers

1 2 3 4 5 Afterschool programs

1 2 3 4 5 Economic/business development programs

1 2 3 4 5 Recreational centers

1 2 3 4 5 Schools

1 2 3 4 5 Parks/public spaces

1 2 3 4 5 Stores

1 2 3 4 5 Social services agencies

1 2 3 4 5 Red Hook Public Safety Corps

13. What other organizations/leaders/programs in the neighborhood do you consider strengths or weaknesses of the community?

14. In your experience, is police response excellent, good, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory in your neighborhood?

1 Excellent

2 Good

3 Satisfactory

4 Unsatisfactory

5 No opinion

15. Would you characterize the relationship between the police and your community as:

1 Very positive

2 Somewhat positive

3 Neutral

4 Somewhat negative

5 Very negative

16. Would you characterize the district attorney's office's response to complaints and issues raised by the Red Hook community as:

1 Very positive

2 Somewhat positive

3 Neutral

4 Somewhat negative

5 Very negative

17. Would you characterize the relationship between the court system and your community as:

- 1 Very positive
- 2 Somewhat positive
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Somewhat negative
- 5 Very negative

18. Have you heard of the Red Hook Community Justice Center, the community court? (If no, skip to #74)

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

19. Where did you hear of the Red Hook Community Justice Center? From a:

- 1 Friend
- 2 Family
- 3 Local organization (If yes, which one? _____)
- 4 Newspaper/poster
- 5 Red Hook Public Safety Corps
- 6 Other: _____

20. In general, how do you feel about having a community-based justice center in your community or nearby?

- 1 Positive
- 2 Neutral
- 3 Negative

21. If they were available to you at the Red Hook Community Justice Center, would you use the following services?

Yes No

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | Entitlements and housing advocacy assistance |
| 1 | 2 | Medical care, including HIV, STD, and TB testing |
| 1 | 2 | English as a second language classes |
| 1 | 2 | Drug treatment |
| 1 | 2 | GED classes |
| 1 | 2 | Job training and job referral services |
| 1 | 2 | Neighborhood legal services for defendants |
| 1 | 2 | Childcare for court users |
| 1 | 2 | Mediation/conflict resolution |

22. What other services would you want or use in the center?_____

23. What gender are you? CORPS MEMBER: You can answer this from observation.

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

24. What ethnic/racial group do you consider yourself a part of? (optional)

- 1 Black
- 2 White
- 3 Native American
- 4 Asian
- 5 Latino
- 6 Other: _____

25. How old are you?

- 1 18 or under
- 2 19 to 25
- 3 26 to 40
- 4 41 to 60
- 5 61 or over

26. How many people are there in your household? _____

27. How many of them are children? _____

Comments? _____

Thank you for your time!